

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
September 27, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:28 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2005, in The Landing, Riverwalk Restaurant, by Chairman James S. Burgett.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Kenneth L. Bowman, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

JOINT MEETING WITH YORK COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Members of York County's Legislative Delegation: Present were Senator Thomas Norment, and Delegate Melanie Rapp.

Senator Marty Williams and Delegate Thomas Gear were absent.

Chairman Burgett reviewed the Board's proposed 2006 Legislative Program as follows:

York County 2006 Legislative Program

Taxation, Revenues and Cost Shifting

Issue: York County asks that the General Assembly maintain the vital state and local partnership

- Position: York County supports a thorough reassessment of Virginia's current tax structure, but opposes using tax restructuring efforts as a vehicle for shifting additional costs and/or service demands to localities.
- Request: Provide local governments with more direct tax authority and enact legislation directing that 5% of state income tax revenues be returned to localities.

Issue: Real Estate Tax Rate—Do not restrict local government's ability to apply the real estate tax rate.

Issue: VDOT—Revenue Sharing—Maintain the revenue sharing program so that counties have at least \$1 million in state funding available annually.

Issue: Support for Tourism—Tourism is critical to Virginia's economy. Provide adequate funding for Tourism promotion and marketing

Issue: Funding Partnerships for Critical Services

- Restore the reductions in funding in the Virginia Juvenile Crime Control Act made by the 2002 General Assembly.
- Mental Health Funding. The Commonwealth drastically reduced residential care

for adults and virtually eliminated adolescent beds and does not provide adequate funding for community-based services.

- Fund mental health counseling in local Juvenile Detention Centers.
- Direct DMHMRSAS to work with DJJ to establish a juvenile corrections/forensics unit.
- Medicaid is a federal/state-funded program. Oppose any local match for Medicaid.
- Stop the practice of transferring Emergency Medical Services funds generated through the \$4 for Life program to the State's General Fund.
- Increase funding to localities for the costs of administering the CSA.
- Increase funding for the State's Small Business Development Center Network by \$1 million.
- Provide full funding for State Aid to Public Libraries, Constitutional Officers, Juvenile and Adult Corrections and other areas of shared responsibility.

Issue: Consolidated Telecommunications Taxes and Fees

- Request: Oppose any legislation that will reduce the local ability to assess taxes and fees on telecommunications services.

Issue: Areas of concern and requests for careful study of:

- De-regulation of Electricity — Maintain the SCC's oversight and approval of electrical rates to assure affordable residential and commercial electrical service and to continue Virginia's competitive position for economic development.
- Personal Property Tax Relief Act—Provide funding sufficient to maintain the State's share of Personal Property Tax Relief at its current level.

Traffic Safety

Issue: "Photo—red" Traffic Signal Enforcement—Include York County in legislation authorizing localities to have "photo red" traffic signal enforcement.

Issue: New Classes of Small Motorized Vehicles—Request authority to regulate the operation of motorized skateboards and scooters, electric motor-powered mini-bikes, and similar devices which do not currently fall within statutory definitions of various kinds of motor vehicles.

Local Authority

Issue: Taxing Authority—Study the feasibility of a Homestead Exemption with a means test.

Issue: Eminent Domain—Sustain local government's right to use eminent domain for traditional public purposes.

Issue: Removal of Certain Appointed Members of Local Boards and Commissions—Allow local governing bodies the discretion to remove members of the Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority, and Wetlands Board if the member misses any three meetings in a row, or four meetings in any 12-month period.

Discussion followed on each of the issues and requests, and the legislators commented on the success or failure of the requests. The Board members indicated many of the requests centered around unfunded mandates and the need for the state to provide funds where it had previously reduced funding to critical programs. Regarding the possibility of the General Assembly restricting local government's real estate taxing ability, Senator Norment was adamant that such a restriction would not happen.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning tourism, and Senator Norment commented on the importance of the work that the WADMAC is doing in encouraging partnerships.

Regarding the Personal Property Tax Relief Act, Senator Norment commented that it would go up, but he did not know how much. Discussion followed on a proposed cap.

Regarding the Board's request concerning new classes of small motorized vehicles, Delegate Rapp indicated she introduced a bill which was one of five, and public hearing were held on September 14. She indicated she would provide a copy to the County Attorney and Board members to make sure it was what York County wanted. Ms. Rapp also noted that there will be a bill from the House that will provide a lot of definitions concerning eminent domain. She stated the Housing Committee was looking very closely at it.

After reviewing the Board's request concerning authority to remove certain appointed members of local boards and commissions, Senator Norment indicated he had no problem with the request.

Delegate Rapp then provided the Board members with an update on her efforts to get another market analysis for the land around the fuel farm property.

Mrs. Noll asked Delegate Rapp and Senator Norment what they felt the future would bring in terms of General Assembly action. She noted that there was to be a surplus projected, and she asked Ms. Rapp and Senator Norment how they envisioned it being used.

Senator Norment stated he felt it was going to be another challenging budget, but it was his hope that the House of Delegates will have a different approach to its priorities in the budget process versus the Senate. He noted that Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia transportation is a major issue, and the General Assembly will put more money into transportation; but it does not want to start taking General Fund monies and have to compete against education. He stated the General Assembly would like to put any surplus funds into one-time, non-recurring expenses in order to build a base. This could be funding to education, transportation grant money, deferred maintenance, or 599 money.

Chairman Burgett thanked the legislators for attending and discussing the County's legislative requests, and asked them to contact the County Administrator or the Board members directly if any assistance was needed from the County.

Meeting Adjourned. At 8:22 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

James S. Burgett, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors